आता कि केन्द्र इससे अधिक क्या करे ? जब-जब राज्य सरकार ने जो मांगा है उनको दिया गया है और यह अकाल की स्थिति में भी राज्य सरकार ने जब-जब केन्द्र से मांगा है उनको समुचित राशि व अन्य सामान दिया गया है ।

श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावत: महोदय, आपको बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद कि केन्द्र सरकार ने राजस्थान सरकार को सहायता दी, लेकिन यह काम प्रारम्भ कराने के लिए भी निर्देश प्रदान करायें, ऐसा मेरा विनम्र निवेदन है ।

THE AQUACULTURE AUTHORITY BILL, 2000

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): Sir, I, on behalf of Shri Nitish Kumar, beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an Aquaculture Authority for regulating the activities connected with aquaculture in the coastal areas and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL:Sir, I introduce the Bill.

खाद्य निगम (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2000

उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री शांता कुमार) : सभापति महोदय, मैं खाद्य निगम अधिनियम, 1964 का और संशोधन करने वाले विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करने की अनुमति चाहता हूं ।

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

श्री शांता कुमार : मैं विधेयक प्रस्तुत करता हूं ।

THE SMALL INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT BANK OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1999.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA):Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to amend the Small Industries Development Bank of India Act, 1989, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The Small Industries Development Bank of India is a development financial institution which was set up in 1990 as a wholly-owned subsidiary of IDBI for financing, promotion and development of the SSI sector and for coordinating the functions of other institutions associated with financing the SSI sector. SIDBI is responsible for providing long-term assistance to small scale industries and the working capital requirements are financed by commercial banks and other prime lending institutions. SIDBI has, so far, sanctioned assistance amounting to Rs.45,144 crores during the period 1990-1999 and the disbursements during the period have been Rs.32,987 crores. To enable SIDBI to play a more effective role in the overall development of SSI sector and equip SIDBI to discharge its apex role in credit delivery to the SSI sector, I had proposed delinking of SIDBI from IDBI and transfer of IDBI shareholdings in SFCs to SIDBI in my Budget speech for 1998-99. Comprehensive amendments to the Small Industries Development Bank of India Act, 1989 proposed in the Bill seeks to delink SIDBI from IDBI, strengthen its capital structure and provide greater functional autonomy and operational flexibility to SIDBI. The main features of the proposed amendments are: enhance authorised capital of SIDBI from existing Rs.250 crores to Rs.1,000 crores with provision for further increase to Rs.2,000 crores; enlarge shareholder base of SIDBI by allowing IDBI to transfer minimum fifty-one per cent of its equity holding in SIDBI in favour of public sector banks, insurance companies, etc.; enable SIDBI to offer 49 per cent of its equity to public; restructure the Board of Directors of SIDBI, and empower the Board to exercise full powers relating to borrowing, acceptance of deposits and investment of surplus funds; empower general body of shareholders for appointment of auditors, approval of annual accounts and approval of rate dividend; empower SIDBI to reduce its share capital with prior approval of the Government of India and to issue redeemable preference shares and convert part of existing share capital into redeemable preference shares.

Sir, with these words, I request that this Bill be taken up for consideration and be passed.

The question was proposed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Any Member desiring to speak, may do so. There are no names before me.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Goa): Sir, I would like to speak on this Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Do not unnecessarily... ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (Tripura) : Sir, I want to speak on this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have no names before me.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : Sir, I would like to say something on this Bill. I want to make a point here because, for a long time, when I was in the other House and even in this House, I have been close to the people. But, before making that point, may I, Sir, wish you a very happy birthday and many happy returns of the day?

Sir, sometime ago, I was reviewing in the SLBC, i.e., the Public Sector Banks Review Committee, as to what the public sector banks were doing as far as the priority sector was concerned. I mention this in the context of the Small Scale Industries Development Bank because the priority sector deals with three things. It deals with agriculture; it deals with small- scale industries and it deals with services. The point I am making here is, I was shocked to see that the priority sector is now completely being neglected by the public sector banks. Their targets are not being fulfilled. Even the quarterly meetings of the public sector banks for reviewing the performance, as far as the priority sector is concerned, are held half-yearly, and they are not even being done in a committed manner.

Sir, the point I am making here is in the context of the new Economic Policy of globalisation and liberalisation. The small man is being given the go-bye, is being forgotten. The whole purpose for which the public sector banks exist, and are supposed to exist, namely, to create employment and help the people living below the poverty line to rise above it, is defeated. Now, they are completely being given the go-bye. As per the statistics of the Planning Commission, your own Planning Commission, the number of people living below the poverty line has increased substantially over the last few years. This is the result of the new Economic Policy. Now, the question is this: If you don't give loans for setting up small-scale industries, then how are

you going to solve the problem of unemployment? The Government, including the banks, are saying that they have frozen the level of employment. No more employment is given, by and large, by the Government, including banks. What are these people supposed to do? Inflation is rising. The Government is giving details of the whole-sale price index, but the Minister does not have the time to go to the market, as I have got to go, because of my own personal circumstances. Then, you will see how the prices have shot up. You have to go with bundles of notes. That is why credit cards have become useful. The short point I am making here is, at the moment, we are facing a very grim situation, with the number of people living below the poverty line being increased, as per the Government's own statistics. The Government is closing the avenues of self-employment, the only way of providing employment, by not giving loans, by not giving credit to the small man. You forget about the small man, as you don't have his concerns at heart. All right. But, it is the small man's industry which is labour-intensive and which provides employment. I would request the hon. Minister to call a meeting of the public sector banks urgently, and impress upon them that the new Economic Policy does not mean dismantaling of the priority sector and obligations of the public sector banks to provide loans so that employment is created and the economic stagnation is removed. Sir, my plea to the Minister is, please have a meeting with the public sector banks, including SIDBI and other financial institutions, and impress upon them the need to give importance, as before, to the priority sector, create employment and see that the number of people living below the poverty line doesn't keep on increasing. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I know one respected Yashwant Sinha who was a socialist. He visited Tripura and he knows the agony of the North Eastern States and other backward States of India.

Now, we did not get any scope to go through the papers. Yet, I would say something on this Bill. It is true that in response to the long-standing demand of the small-scale sector, SIDBI was set up by an Act of Parliament for promotion and development of industries in the small-scale sector. It is well known that the needs of the small-scale sector are multi-farious and, in fact, to a great extent, this sector requires protection. While SIDBI has to look after the financial needs of the small-sector and the tiny sector, the Government has to come out with a policy direction and rules and regulations to protect the small-scale sector. Otherwise, this sector will

easily be swarmed by the large-scale sector. Even though SIDBI started direct financing also to this sector, still its role in meeting the financial requirements of this sector is far from satisfactory. I would like the Minister to take note of it. I can specifically give an example of the North-East where institutions like SIDBI have to go out of their way to help, as compared to other regions, in view of the backwardness of the area. I regret to inform that there has been no extra effort on the part of this institution in the North-Eastern States. On the contrary, they have tried to enforce the same rules and regulations for this area too as are applicable to the other parts of the country. As a result, the poor people of this region have not been able to take advantage of the various schemes. The small-scale sector in this entire region has been neglected and it is suffering badly. By SIDBI's own admission, its share of refinance in the backward regions of the country -- not only for the North Eastern States -- fell from 37% in 1995-96 to 33.8% in 1997-98 and to 31% in 1998-99. Similary, there has been no out of way effort on the part of this organisation in providing marketing assistance to the small-scale sector in the backward areas.

I would strongly urge that while deciding to delink SIDBI from IDBI, the Government should clearly emphasise the need for a much greater role for the SIDBI in the small-scale sector for the development of the backward areas of the country as a whole. It is a welcome step that SIDBI's share capital base is proposed to be increased. The organisation will have a greater autonomy by this. Along with this decision, the Government should also direct the SIDBI to use greater autonomy in taking up innovative projects. So far, SIBDI has concentrated only on the traditional small-scale sector industries in textiles, chemicals, food products, metal products. But, in the changed scenario, SIDBI should help the growth of the small-scale and the tiny sector in relation to areas like information technology, infrastructure development, plantation etc., which have a scope for progress, for development, in the North-Eastern States.

Yet another area of grave concern for the small scale industry sector is the impact of liberalisation and mobilisation of the small scale sector. It is well known that the small scale sector requires certain protection against the large scale sector. This protection is necessary not only for the development of SSI units, but this necessary exercise can also be much more widespread than the large scale industries and therefore, can provide

employment on local and regional basis. The growth of small scale industries is also a safeguard against monopolization of capital in a few hands. With the trend of liberalisation and globalisation, the small scale sector has taken a beating. The reservation of goods for the small scale sector has been rendered a severe blow by the Government. On the other hand, the open invitation by the Government for foreign investment has also made the job of the SSIs difficult. The idea behind encouraging foreign investment was to ensure growth in core sector where the need for greater investment and better technology was felt. However, trends have shown that instead of investment in the core sector, the foreign direct investment is flowing into the consumer goods sector. The consumer sector where SSI has an important role to play is thus a sufferer. The multinational companies are liberally using foreign direct investment to finish the small scale sector units. Another point which deserves to be noted is with regard to the undesirable trends associated with the multinational companies which are bringing in foreign direct investment at the expense of the small scale sector. These multinational corporations have been bringing in outdated technology and their investment is mostly limited to second in machinery. They have entered the industrial scene on a fifty-fifty basis and then quickly they are trying to take the majority control. Their focus is also to take short-term gains than the long-term gains. Such undesirable features on the part of these multinational corporations clearly indicate that there should be greater reliance on developing our own small scale sector units which has ushered in a cost effective manufacturing and which will have a long-term strategy. Unless the Government makes corrections in its policy directions towards these small scale industries, the growth of this sector cannot be ensured by only making SIDBI an autonomous body and by increasing the share base of this institution. Thank you.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support this Bill. However, I want to make some points. Apart from agriculture and weaving sector, this is the only area in which we are able to provide more employment opportunities. But, at the same time, as my hon. colleague has just now said, we are on the crossroads. But we have to live with it because leaving the WTO will be more pernicious than living with it. Therefore, we have to live with it. We have come to know from the observation made by the hon. Minister that the sanctions made by the SIDBI were to the tune of Rs.45,144 crores and the disbursements made out of them

were to the tune of Rs.32,987 crores. It clearly shows that an amount to the tune of Rs.12,157 crores was not disbursed to the people who had applied for loans from the SIDBI. The reasons for this have not been mentioned in the speech given by the hon. Minister. Secondly, even though the statistics provided to the House are regarding the sanctions and disbursements made, there is no mention about the amount sought by the SSI.

It has not been mentioned in the Report. Therefore, I hope the hon. Minister, while replying, would inform the House as to how much amount has actually been sought by the small scale industry, how much amount has actually been sanctioned, how much has been rejected, the reasons for such rejection and whether such rejection is beyond the norms or because of any other particular reason. As far as the Indian exports are concerned, the SSI plays an important role. In a sense, it actually shares the major portion of the amount that we get from the international trade. When compared to heavy and large-scale industries, this is the only sector from which we are able to get more foreign exchange. Therefore, we have to concentrate on how to sustain it. This is number. The second point is, how to improve the international trade by exporting the goods manufacutred in the SSI. I feel the technological transfer is taking place at a much faster pace than we expected. Unless, the goods manufactured in India are competitive in the international market, it is very difficult for us to compete in future in the international trade. Therefore, I feel, while sanctioning the amount for the SSI, they must take into consideration or they must give priority to the loans sought for technological upgradation. Now, they are talking about multinational companies. The developed countries are very particular about the free flow of the capital from the developed countries to the developing countries. They fail to understand that unless the developing countris' purchasing capacity is improved, even the goods manufactured by the developed countries cannot make any impact in the international trade with the developing countries. The developed countries have failed to understand this point. This is the first point.

The second point is, when the developed countries are very particular about the free flow of capital from the developed countries to the developing countries to make in-roads into industrial sector of the developing countries but they are not allowing the free flow of labour. The free flow of labour rests with developing countries. When it is so, the same approach, the same philosophy, and the same concept should be applied for the SSI also. Therefore, we have to be very careful. If we want to compete in the

international market, I feel, the SIDBI should concentrate on this exercise - giving priority to the technological upgradation as well as new innovations. With these words, I conclude. Thank you very much.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I am grateful to hon. Shri Eduardo Faleiro, Shri Khagen Das and Shri Virumbi...

SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI (Gujarat): Sir, I have a point to make.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, he wants to say something.

SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Sir, I rise to support the Bill. The capital has been raised from Rs. 250 crores to Rs. 1,000 crores. But, so far as small industries are concerned, I would submit, they are not able to compete with the incoming multinational companies. At the same time, there is no recovery so far as small industrial capital is concerned. Therefore, there is the NPA. I would like to request the hon. Minister to think of the agricultural banks like the District co-operative banks and the State Co-operative Banks. After implementing the Narasimham Committee's Report, almost all banks are going to be liquidated. They are suffering losses. Therefore, the agricultural industry is also going to be marred like anything. This aspect may be thought of. Thank you.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I was saying that I am grateful to the hon. Members for the contribution that they have made and the suggestions that they have given to the Government. I would like to say that if the interest of the small scale sector was not upper most in our mind; we would not have thought of this particular step that we are proposing to take, namely, expanding the equity base of the SIDBI, giving it more autonomy and making it into a more powerful tool of our systems for the small scale sector.

Sir, that really is the prime objective in the mind of the Government in bringing this legislation before the House. Now, Shri Khagen Das has talked of the dangers to the SSI sector. We are acutely aware of the dangers, and in the last two budgets that I have presented to the Parliament, I have taken a number of steps to promote the interests of the SSI sector in order to enable them to meet competition from the large sector at home as well as the foreign sector. There are certain things which are inevitable. Therefore, all of us including the SSI sector, have to prepare for that inevitable competition. As the economy opens up and the quantitative restrictions fall by the way-side, there will be increasing competition even at home for all producers

of goods and services including the small scale sector. But, it is not that the small scale sector is a helpless victim before this onslaught of competition. It is not true. The very fact that almost 40% of our export effort is contributed by the small scale sector is proof enough of the strength and the vigour of this sector. Therefore, I see no reason why we should try and hide behind artificial barrier and shelter in order to protect and promote the small scale sector. We have taken, as I said, a number of promotional steps, and to my mind promotion is better than protection. It is promotion, it is all kinds of help that we as Government can provide to the small scale sector that will enable the small scale sector to flourish in this country rather than any artificial protection which could be extended.

Now, a few issues have been raised and I would like to reply to them in a specific detail. Shri Faleiro has raised the issue of priority sector lending, It is indeed a very important issue and, Sir, I would like to assure the House, through you, that we have been reviewing the lending by the banks -- nationalised banks, private Indian banks, and foreign banks operating in India. Their performance in the priority sector is continuously under review. I had a meeting with the Chairman of the various banks a few days ago and we have re-emphasised their role in the priority sector lending. Sir, I have some figures. If Shri Faleiro is interested, I would like to tell him that at the end of March, 1996, the priority sector lending by public sector banks in total was 37.8%, and by March, 1999, it was 43.5%. As far as private sector banks were concerned, it was 34% in March, 1996, and it was 41.4% in March, 1999. As far as foreign banks were concerned, it was - according to the figures which are available with me - 10.3% in March, 1998, and it had gone up to 11% by March, 1999. Sir, the other thing, I am sure, about which the House is aware, is the fact that whenever a bank, in whichever category, fails to give the required credit, i.e. 40% , to priority sector, we pre-empt that money. We have a system by which we pre-empt that money, we place it at the disposal of SIDBI, we place it at the disposal of NABARD, and that money is then pumped into the priority sector through these routes. So, we will continue to review priority sector lending by the commercial banks, by all banks, and it will be our endeavour to ensure that not only the target of 40%, but well beyond that target is met by all these banks.

As far as the North-East is concerned, I want to say that our commitment is very clear to the North-East, to the development of the North-East. Despite the fact that Mr. Khagen Das feels that I am not a

socialist any more, let me assure him that as far as the commitment to the North-East is concerned, socialism or no socialism, that commitment continues. I have here figures of all the advances. ...*(Interruptions)* .... I do not know, Sir, when I was a socialist. I spent 24 hours in the bureaucracy, and the bureaucrat does not have an ideology. He is not supposed to be with this party or that party.

During the period of nine years from 1990 to 1999, the SIDBI's cumulative sanction to the North-East was Rs.212 crores, and the disbursement was Rs.182 crores. There was a meeting recently taken in Shillong by the Prime Minister. I was also present in that meeting. The Government has reiterated its commitment to development of the North-East. I will like to assure the House and the hon. Members that we shall be doing our best for the promotion of industries, especially small-scale industries, in the entire North-East.

As far as the overall lending to all the backward areas is concerned, it is a very satisfactory figure of 29 per cent by the SIDBI.

Mr. Virumbi has raised the issue of mismatch between sanctions and disbursements. I want to say that there is always a mismatch. Let us not forget that the SIDBI is a refinance institution. It does not lend directly. It is a refinancing institution, and two-thirds of its funds are made available to the State Finance Corporations, through which refinancing takes place. Therefore, there will always be, as there indeed is in any financial institution, a mismatch, an apparent mismatch between sanctions and the actual disbursements. However, I think, the record of the SIDBI in this regard is satisfactory.

The SIDBI runs 13 promotional schemes for the small-scale sector, and one of those schemes is promotion of technology. It has a technological promotion scheme. It has the Technology Development and Modernisation Fund, which the SIDBI runs for the small-scale sector. Then, it has a separate Technology Upgradation Fund for textile industries. These are the two schemes, through which the SIDBI is assisting in technology upgradation and modernisation.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Its performance in technology development has not been good for the last three years. Whatever has been the target, it has always been behind that. If that can be

improved, that will help small-scale industries. Unless small-scale industries develop the technology, it will not be possible for them to compete.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I entirely agree with the statement that the small-scale industry has to strengthen itself in various areas, and technology is certainly one. We are doing all we can to promote technology. However, when we are dealing with a finance institution, let us remember that there is demand and there is supply. I suggest that it is the responsibility of all of us to encourage the units in the small-scale sector to take advantage of the funds that are at the disposal of the SIDBI for modernisation and technology development. I am quite sure that if all of us together carry awareness to the SSI sector, it will be able to take advantage of the various windows that are available with the SIDBI for this purpose.

I suggest that this piece of legislation that I have brought before the House, that the Lok Sabha has already considered and passed, is a progressive piece of legislation. It will indeed go a long way in promoting the interests of the SSI sector. I, therefore, suggest that the House adopt this Bill with acclaim.

Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Small Industries Development Bank of India Act, 1989, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Clause 3. There are two amendments, Nos.3 and 4, by Shri Yashwant Sinha.

Clause 3 (Substitution of new section for section 4 to 6) Authorised capital)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I move:

3. "That at page 2, line 24, *for* the figure "1999" the figure "2000" be *substituted.*"

4. "That at page 3, line 1, *for* the figure "1999" the figure "2000" be *substituted.*"

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 4 to 25 were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Clause 1. There is one amendment by Shri Yashwant Sinha.

Clause 1 (Short title)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I move:

"That at page 1, line 3, *for* the figure "1999", the figure "2000" be *substituted.*"

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Enacting Formula. There is one amendment. Shri Yashwant Sinha.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I move:

"That at page 1, line 1, *for* the word "Fiftieth" the word "Fifty-first" be *substituted.*"

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम (उत्तर प्रदेश): : महोदय, मैं इसका समर्थन कर रहा हूं, यह पास हो ही रहा है लेकिन अगर लघु उद्योग को बचाना है जो बड़े उद्योग से पांच गुना ज्यादा इम्प्लॉयमेंट प्रोवाइड करता है तो बड़े उद्योगों और लघु उद्योगों के बीच में जो चीज़ें पैदा होती हैं, उसकी डीमार्केटिंग लाइन ज़रूर होनी चाहिए तभी ये लघु उद्योग बचेंगे और इनसे इम्प्लॉयमेंट मिलेगा । केवल लफ्ज़ों से यह बचने वाला नहीं है, मैं मंत्री जी से यह प्रार्थना करूंगा ।

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, I am just on a point of information. The hon. Minister has mentioned that 40 per cent or thereabout is the credit disbursed to the small-scale industries. In my State, Goa, I have

looked at the figures at the last S.L.B.C. there are several banks where the credit given to small-scale industries is zero per cent. You may call for those papers and decide whatever you may think is appropriate in that context.

Secondly, I would request the hon. Minister to find a way by which the Members of Parliament can be kept aware of what the public sector banks are doing, as far as the priority sector is concerned. They can be invited for the meetings of the S.L.B.C. in their respective States or Constituencies.

श्री यशवन्त सिन्हा : सभापति महोदय, जो बात गौतम जी ने कही, उसके बारे में मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि इसको हम अलग-अलग बांट कर न देखें । जो बड़े उद्योग हैं और जो छोटे उद्योग हैं, उनमें एक तारतम्य बनाना पड़ेगा, एक संबंध कायम करना पड़ेगा और जब एक समन्वय स्थापति होगा, तभी दोनों उद्योग पनपेंगे । अगर हम उद्योगों के बीच में दीवारें खींचते चलेंगे तो शायद वह सही रास्ता नहीं होगा और इसीलिए छोटे उद्योगों के पनपने में बड़े उद्योगों का जो सहयोग होना चाहिए, जो उनकी सहभागिता होनी चाहिए, उस ओर हमारा विशेष ध्यान है और हम लगातार यह प्रयास कर रहे हैं कि बड़े उद्योगों की तरफ से उनको सारा प्रोत्साहन और समर्थन मिलता रहे ।

जहां तक फलेरियो जी के द्वारा उठाया हुआ गोवा का प्रश्न है, मैं इससे इंकार नहीं करता हूं हालांकि मैं उसको स्वीकार भी नहीं कर सकता हूं क्योंकि मेरे पास अभी गोवा के आंकड़े नहीं हैं ।

लेकिन यह हो सकता है कि विभिन्न राज्यों के अलग-अलग आंकड़े हों । मैं जब आंकड़ों की बात कर रहा था, 40 प्रतिशत या उससे अधिक तो मैं राष्ट्रीय औसत की बात कर रहा था । अलग-अलग राज्यों में, हर राज्य में 40 प्रतिशत हो गया है, ऐसा नहीं है। मैं इतना कहना चाहूंगा, मेरे सहयोगी मंत्री श्री पाटिल जी यहां उपस्थित हैं, हम दोनों मिलकर यह प्रयास कर रहे हैं कि जो एस.एल.बी.सीज (स्टेट लेवल बैंकर्स कमेटीज) हैं, स्टेट लेवल पर उनकी बैठकें बुलवाएं, उनमें जाएं, उसमें जितने प्रतिनिधि हैं वे सब आएं और उन सबके सामने चर्चा हो ताकि यह जो काम करना है उसे किया जा सके ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please move the Bill.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House now stands adjourned till 2 p.m.

The House then adjourned for lunch at

fifty-six minutes past twelve of the clock.

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The House reassembled after lunch at three minutes past two of the clock, THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR) in the Chair.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

Failure of Government of India to Prevail upon Gujarat Government to withdraw Circular Removing the Ban on its Emmployees Participating in R.S.S. Activities.

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH (Assam): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I rise to raise a discussion on the failure of the Government of India to discharge its constitutional responsibility to protect secularism which is one of the basic tenets of the Constitution of India by not prevailing upon the State Government of Gujarat to withdraw the circular removing the ban imposed on the State Government employees in participating in the activities of the R.S.S.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, ours is a system of Parliamentary democracy. Secularism is also a basic tenet of our polity, and I submit to you that the safeguarding of parliamentary democracy and the secular values requires that the civil services in our country should be totally neutral when it comes to political affiliations. I recall, when the role of civil services was being discussed in the Constituent Assembly in 1948 or 1949, Sardar Patel had warned the country that if the political neutrality of our services is not ensured, then we will have a system of administration which will not be able to implement the constitutional scheme of things which the Assembly was then debating.

Sir, for the successful functioning of our parliamentary democracy, for the safeguarding of secular values which we all cherish, it is absolutely essential that our Civil Services should be seen to act in the most impartial manner. Political neutrality of our Civil Services, both at the Central and the State levels, is absolutely essential for the successful functioning of our system of parliamentary democracy. It is in this context, Sir, that I note with deep sorrow the attempts now being made to destroy this basic edifice of a politically neutral Civil Service which, I believe, has served our country very well thus far. Sir, I do not want to go into the history of the RSS, nor do I want to use any harsh words. In the RSS, there are people like the hon. Shri Nanaji Deshmukh. He is a person whom I greatly respect, but, Sir, to put it very mildly, the RSS remains a highly controversial organisation. We all know the circumstances in which the RSS was banned after the assassination